
U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

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MOLYBDENUM IN SEPTEMBER 1996

Domestic production of molybdenum in concentrate increased 21% in September 1996 compared with that of the previous month and was 1% more than in September 1995, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Producer molybdenum stocks in concentrate, oxide, and other product forms were 8,930 metric tons at the beginning of 1996 and 8,050 metric tons at the end of September.

Included in this Mineral Industry Surveys are U.S. production, shipments, and stocks of molybdenum concentrates and materials, plus U.S. consumption by end use of molybdenum in September 1996. Also included are trade data for August 1996. During September, Platt's Metals Week U.S. monthly average

price for molybdenum concentrate was \$4.823 per kilogram (\$2.188 per pound). The average price for dealer molybdenum oxide was \$8.309 per kilogram (\$3.769 per pound) and that for dealer ferromolybdenum was \$10.031 per kilogram (\$4.409 per pound).

For the week ending November 15, 1996, Platt's Metals Week U.S. average price for molybdenum concentrate was \$4.960 per kilogram (\$2.250 per pound). The average price for dealer molybdenum oxide was \$8.488 per kilogram (\$3.850 per pound) and that for ferromolybdenum was \$11.133 per kilogram (\$5.050 per pound).

TABLE 1
U.S. SALIENT MOLYBDENUM CONCENTRATE STATISTICS 1/

(Metric tons, contained molybdenum)

Item	1995 p/	1996		
		August	September	Year to date 2/
Production	58,000	3,910	4,740	41,800
Shipments: 3/				
Domestic	13,700	1,410	1,540	12,100
Export	18,600	4,750	1,120	15,800

p/ Preliminary.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits.

2/ May include revisions to previous months' data.

3/ As reported by producers.

TABLE 2
U.S. REPORTED CONSUMPTION, BY END USES, AND CONSUMER STOCKS OF MOLYBDENUM MATERIALS
IN SEPTEMBER 1996 1/

(Hundred kilograms, contained molybdenum)

End use	Molybdc oxides	Ferro molyb- denum 2/	Ammonium and sodium molybdate	Molyb- denum scrap	Other	Total
Steel:						
Carbon	500	253	--	--	W	753
Stainless and heat-resisting	2,190	125	--	--	W	2,320
Full alloy	2,000	1,380	--	--	34	3,410
High-strength low-alloy	343	214	--	--	--	558
Tool	996	50	--	--	W	1,050
Cast irons	17	490	--	--	W	507
Superalloys	525	W	--	228	342	1,100
Alloys:						
Welding materials (structural and hard-facing)	--	W	--	--	W	W
Other alloys 3/	--	W	--	5	W	5
Mill products made from metal power	--	--	--	--	W	W
Chemical and ceramic uses:						
Pigments	--	--	7	--	--	7
Catalysts	773	--	W	--	W	773
Other	W	--	--	--	W	W
Miscellaneous and unspecified	17	130	830	--	2,370	3,350
Total	7,360	2,640	837	233	2,750	13,800
Stocks, September 30, 1996	4,790	1,620	124	627	8,380	15,500

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Miscellaneous and unspecified."

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes calcium molybdate.

3/ Includes magnetic and nonferrous alloys.

TABLE 3
U.S. REPORTED PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF MOLYBDENUM PRODUCTS 1/

(Metric tons, contained molybdenum)

Product	1995 p/	1996		
		August	September	Year to date 2/
Gross production	46,000	3,620	4,700	34,000
Molybdenum product 3/ used to make other products	23,100	2,130	1,930	17,300
Shipments	24,000	1,870	2,230	18,300

p/ Preliminary.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits.

2/ May include revisions to previous months' data.

3/ Includes molybdc oxides, metal powder, ammonium molybdate, sodium molybdate, and other.

TABLE 4
U. S. EXPORTS OF MOLYBDENUM ORE AND CONCENTRATE
(Including roasted concentrate), BY COUNTRY 1/

(Hundred kilograms, contained molybdenum)

Country	1995 p/	1996		
		July	August	Year to date
Australia	650	138	98	374
Belgium	103,000	8,980	6,350	93,700
Brazil	1,580	--	4	194
Canada	7,590	210	289	2,010
Chile	62,900	1,350	4,530	39,000
China	--	1,200	677	4,140
France	--	50	--	56
Germany	7,700	907	363	4,040
Italy	1,370	11	--	1,230
Japan	54,900	4,300	4,270	35,300
Korea, Republic of	2	--	--	--
Mexico	40,400	5,860	6,030	39,300
Netherlands	112,000	7,230	9,950	43,300
Singapore	1	--	--	--
Spain	121	--	--	--
Sweden	6,300	199	--	2,570
Switzerland	324	--	--	--
Taiwan	6	--	--	--
United Kingdom	47,400	6,380	5,050	49,900
Venezuela	5	--	--	--
Total	446,000	36,800	37,600	315,000

p/ Preliminary.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF FERROMOLYBDENUM, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Hundred kilograms, contained molybdenum)

Country	1995 p/	1996		
		July	August	Year to date 2/
Australia	8	--	--	--
Canada	2,140	35	173	1,310
China	2	--	--	--
Egypt	9	--	--	--
Japan	1,050	104	31	1,140
Korea, Republic of	21	--	--	19
Malaysia	223	--	--	372
Mexico	2,010	137	128	729
Netherlands	737	--	--	--
Singapore	--	46	47	406
Spain	234	6	--	12
Taiwan	485	--	--	--
Venezuela	27	--	--	8
Total	6,920	328	379	4,000

p/ Preliminary.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ May include revisions to previous months' data.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF MOLYBDENUM PRODUCTS 1/

(Hundred kilograms unless otherwise specified)

Material	1995			1996		
	January-December			January-August		
	Gross weight	Contained molybdenum	Value (thousands)	Gross weight	Contained molybdenum	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrates roasted	74,300	47,800	\$73,400	55,900	38,700	\$28,600
Ore and concentrates other	15,000	7,930	8,040	351	210	169
Molybdenum chemicals:						
Oxides and hydroxides	9,180	NA	11,400	5,630	NA	4,330
Molybdates of ammonium	3,450	1,860	2,880	4,510	2,300	3,870
Molybdates (all others)	540	420	285	613	266	362
Molybdenum orange	6,740	NA	2,270	12,700	NA	3,910
Mixtures of inorganic compounds	6	5	130	--	--	--
Ferromolybdenum	65,500	41,900	74,600	62,100	39,100	44,900
Molybdenum powders	1,950	1,460	5,590	738	674	1,980
Molybdenum unwrought	1,310	1,020	3,560	632	592	1,660
Molybdenum waste and scrap	4,530	4,300	6,310	5,830	5,480	8,340
Molybdenum wrought	--	--	--	--	--	--
Molybdenum wire	11	NA	277	14	NA	202
Molybdenum other	27	NA	993	24	NA	678
Total	183,000	107,000	190,000	149,000	87,300	98,900

NA Not available.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.